

THE DAY BOOK

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"UNMARRIED WIFE" SAYS SHE IS HAPPIEST WOMAN IN WORLD, AND LOOKS IT

But Floretta Whaley's Eyes Fill With Tears as She Looks at Her Two Sturdy Sons, Born Out of Wedlock, Denied Their Father's Name.

New York, April 13.—With her two sturdy sons, rosy-cheeked, healthy laughing cherubs, playing about the room, Floretta Whaley, the "unmarried wife," today declared she was "the happiest woman in the world!"

It is five years now since Floretta Whaley eloped with the Rev. Jere Cooke, pastor of the fashionable St. George's Episcopal church, of Hempstead, Conn.

She was only a girl of fifteen. He was a man of thirty—and married. She attended his church. She came to him with her troubles. They loved each other.

People began to talk. So the pastor and the girl decided to defy the world. They disappeared.

There was the usual flaring headlines in the newspapers. The usual sensational stories, full of suggestion. And there was a broken-hearted woman in Hempstead, who once had called herself Jere Cooke's wife.

The fashionable society of the quiet New England town was shaken to its foundations. The

members of St. George's church were aghast.

And everybody prophesied that the elopement that had broken one woman's heart would break another, and leave a minister of the gospel, once respected above his fellows, on the bitter, salty shore of dissipation and ostracism.

Since that day five years ago, Jere Cooke, the white-handed minister, and the young, gently cultured, beautiful girl, have suffered terrible privations.

For months they were hounded from place to place; fearful they would be recognized, arrested, and taken back to the New England town where once they had held their heads so high, as felons.

There were times when they were hungry; times when they were homeless; times when they were afraid to look a fellow human being in the face.

But they have pulled through it, and if ever a woman's face backed up her statement, Floretta Whaley's did today when she said that she was "the happy-